NAM Meeting of Economic Cooperation held at Harare

4362. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state ;

(a) what are the details of the important aspects discussed at the two day ministerial meeting of the NAM on economic cooperation held recently at Harare ;

(b) whether India expressed its reservations on some of the parts of the documents prepared at the meeting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Standing Ministerial Committee, which was set up by the Eight Nonaligned Summit in Harare, held its first substantive session from July 4 to 7, 1988. The only substantive item on the Committee's agenda was an Assessment of the Current State of the North-South Dialogue and Proposals for its Revitalisation. The Committee held extensive discussion on all aspects of the North-South dialogue. At its conclusion it issued a Communique and a Declaration.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since the meeting was of short duration, the second document, i.e., the Declaration could not be fully negotiated during the Conference. In order to retain our option to further improve and refine the document at any subsequent Meeting, we reserved our comments.

Indian Air Force Plane Crashes

4363. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of Indian Air Force Plane crashes in last three years; the year-wise details indicating the type of the plane separately;

(b) what is the number of Air Force personnel killed and monetary loss incurred; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to eliminate these accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) and (b) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the details regarding number of air crashes, Air Force personnel killed and monetary loss incurred.

(c) Flying accidents cannot be altogether eliminated. To minimise them, however, a number of steps have been taken by Government which is an on-going process. These are given below :—

(i) The training pattern has been modified and a new syllabi has been introduced with emphasis on advanced operational training exercises.

(ii) The training syllabi have been reviewed in depth to ensure that junior pilots are introduced to high workload/high risk exercises in a progressive/regulated manner. Standards for each phase of training have been set and are being monitored.

(iii) Radio and Navigational aids are being given particular attention. Mandatory requirement of essential aids at airfields has been defined.

(iv) Appropriate instructions have been issued to ensure that medical factors like aircrew fatigue